

CleanMed Europe Poster Exhibition 2006

XCHANGE – Good Environmental Practice in Health Care

Title of project

Green Health Care – how to create awareness

Topic

Information and training activities

Short summary of the project (Describe the initiative and the main achievements of the project)

Swedish doctors for the Environment (LfM) was founded in 1992. The purpose of LfM is to promote a development of society that leads to good living conditions and health for today's and tomorrow's generations, nationally as well as globally. From start, it was natural to look at the environmental impact from the health care sector. LfMs work can be divided into four periods:

1. Initiating period 1994-1997: Green Health Care
2. Investigating period 1997-1998: Medicines and environment
3. Lobbying period 1999-2003: Medicines and environment
4. Educating period 2004 –: Medicines, health and environment

Goals of the project

To arouse the interest of doctors, authorities and companies in the subject environmental impact from the health care sector.

Course of the project & measures (Describe the main activities, measures, milestones, etc. during the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project)

1. Initiating period 1994-1996

Exhibitions on Green Health Care at the Annual General Meetings of the Swedish Society of Medicine. At the end of this period, the awareness had risen substantially, and a systematic environmental work had started in several hospitals and other health care institutions.

2. Investigation period 1997-1998

Writing, presenting, distributing and presenting the report “Medicines and Environment. What do we know today? A Brief State of the Art Analysis”

The following investigations were made:

- A review of the literature concerning the ecological effects of pharmaceutical drugs.
- A questionnaire to the Swedish authorities concerning their view and knowledge about the ecological influences of pharmaceutical drugs.
- A questionnaire to pharmaceutical companies concerning their knowledge and policy on raw materials, production and manufacturing of drugs, managing of residue products and transport. The questionnaire dealt with drugs, drug packages and advertising.
- A questionnaire to different divisions of a Swedish university hospital (Uppsala).

The report included suggestions for further actions. It was spread to the pharmaceutical companies as well as the authorities. It was presented at the Annual General Meetings of the Swedish Society of Medicine in 1997 and 1998.

3. Lobbying period 1999-2003

Interest for medicines and environment grew slowly in Sweden. We were invited to a few seminars, where we could follow the development and where we expressed our view. The seminars were reviewed in our Newsletter, and the articles collected to a special issue in 2003. We were also interviewed in some papers. Towards the end of this period, other actors had shown up, and the issue became more visible.

4. Educating period 2004-

In 2004, we arranged the first national full day seminar on Medicines, Health and Environment. In 2005, we repeated the success. In these seminars, we combined environment with health (see enclosed programme). The invitation was spread mainly over the internet, searching for responsible persons in health care: primary health care coordinators, environment and pharmacology coordinators in the county councils, university institutions etc. Participants, of different professions, came from all health care sectors, from all over Sweden.

Members of LfM have been cooperating at several local arrangements on Medicines and environment.

A workshop "Medicines, Health and Environment - what is the price we pay?" was held at the 14th Nordic Congress of General Practice, Stockholm 2005.

In 2005, we were asked by the Swedish Medical Association to write a PM on a submission from the Medical Products Agency. Our PM was accepted as the association's own answer.

A website has been developed, where we publish different texts on health care's environmental issues. It had 20,000 visitors during the first year.

People involved in the project, (external) partners

1. Ingrid Eckerman, Christa Kampa-Olsson, LfM
Financed by County Council of Stockholm
2. Ingrid Eckerman, Jehns Christian Martineus, LfM
Financed by County Council of Stockholm.
3. Ingrid Eckerman, LfM
4. Ingrid Eckerman and others, LfM
External partners: County Councils of Stockholm and Västra Götaland et al, the NEPI Foundation, Södersjukhuset, Apoteket AB, Population Health Unit of Nacka, Recip AB.

Noteworthy success factors (Any special hints or suggestions for others who want to start a similar activity)

- Financial resources, e.g. the possibility to get grants to finance the exhibitions and the report.
- Marketing our organisation so we get free invitations to conferences.
- Cooperation with other organisations with larger resources for research etc.
- Large contact net.
- Having a status as reliable, as health professionals and scientists.

Project period (start and end date)

1. 1996 - 1996
2. 1997 – 1998
3. 1998 – 2003
4. 2004 -

Current project status (underline)

Project finished and transferred to regular workflow

A red thread in our work has always been “the responsibility of the professionals”. This includes spreading of knowledge. In this aspect, the project will never be finished, although it might change. We are discussing a third seminar on Medicines, Health and Environment, in 2006 or 2007. We offer participation in other seminars arranged by the county councils.

In 2006, we will have a seminar on “Food for Life. A seminar with environmental and sustainability perspectives” (se enclosed programme). This seminar might be repeated.

We are discussing a seminar on “Health Impact by Climate Change” in 2006 or 2007. This might be arranged together with Engineers and Economistst for the Environment (IfM and EfM), arranged by our umbrella organisation DNSy (The Natural Step’s professional network).

Results achieved

Our seminars are very attractive and appreciated. The participants have a wide range of professions. We have thus contributed to the increasing awareness of health care’s responsibility for environment, among doctors, other health care staff and the bureaucrats of the county councils, and inspired them to work with these issues.

Contact data

Organisation (name) Läkare för Miljön (Swedish Doctors for the Environment) (LfM)

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Enclosed

- Abstract “Medicines and Environment. What do we know today?”
- Report “Medicines and Environment. What do we know today?”
- Web site text in English
- Programme “Medicines, Health and environment”
- Programme “Food for life”